

AN SCUBER-CHYMBLYS DYAWLAK (THE DEVILISH CHIMNEY SWEEP)

This appeared in *An Lef Kernewek* (The Cornish Voice) in February 1955 (Number 38). It is a version of a story about a chimney sweep who falls asleep in a church only to be awoken during the following morning's service - and so startling the congregation. Miss E. S. Shapcott of Looe told this tale in the *Old Cornwall* journal No. 1, Vol. II, Summer 1931 (page 3), so that's probably where Peter got his inspiration for his rendering of this tale in Cornish.

Un scuber-chymblys squyth a-wruk entra dhe japel esa parys rak servys ha cusca y'n wogell. Servys a - dhallathas mes an scuber a-besyas cusca. Worteweth nep gordhyer a-bysas ughel yndelma; "Arluth, yth-on agas Kernowyon harth; a-teffa dhyn an jawl y honen y'n ur-ma, y-whrussen y dhyvynya ha'gan gwrageth a-wrussa y worra yn pasty!"

An geryow-ma a-wruk dyfuna an scuber, nep a-dhrehevys y fas du dres myn an wogell. Dystough oll an Gernowyon harth a-fyas a'n chapel ow-carma "An jawl! An jawl!"

An scuber, mar vur own dhodho es del o dhe nep den, a-s-sewyas, hag yn-scon y-whruk cachya an keth den-na re-wrussa y dhyfuna gans y bysadow harth. Yn-meth an den, "Na-m-ledheugh, dyawl, mar plek; nyns-of-vy esel pup deth-oll an guntelles-ma!"

English Translation by Barnaby Carver

A tired chimney sweep did enter into a chapel which was prepared for a service and slept in the pulpit. A service started but the sweep continued sleeping. Eventually some worshipper loudly prayed like this; "Lord, we are your bold Cornishmen; if the devil himself were to come to us right now, we would chop him up and our wives would put him in a pasty!"

These words did wake the sweep, who raised his black face above the rim of the pulpit. Immediately all the bold Cornishmen fled from the chapel shouting "The devil! The devil!"

The sweep, who was as afraid as any other man, followed them, and soon he did catch up to that same man who had woken him up with his bold prayers. The man said, "Don't kill me, devil, please; I am not a regular member of this congregation!"